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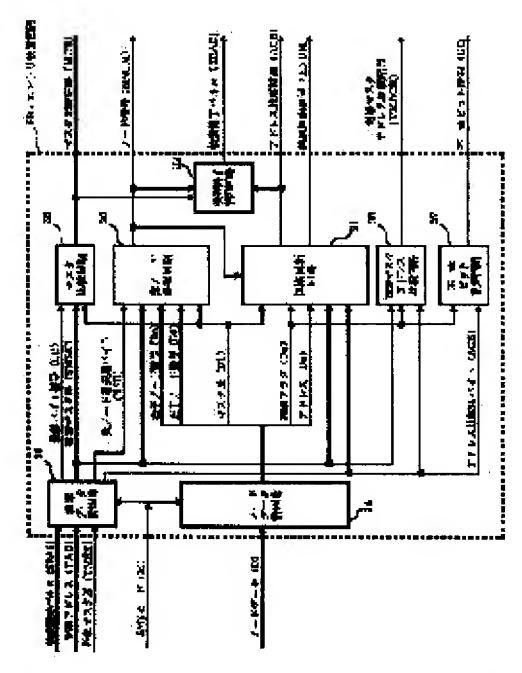
(72)Inventor: YAMADA NORIKUNI

(54) COMMUNICATION CONTROLLER

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a technology that conducts path retrieval processing at a high-speed, suppresses a memory capacity from being increased without the need for increasing the circuit scale and can retrieve a path independently of the length of a retrieved address even when the address length is longer.

SOLUTION: This communication controller is provided with a retrieval data management section 33 that expresses a node of a path tree corresponding to a path table with division addresses resulting from dividing a real address by one byte each and with a division mask length and generates 4-stages of address comparison bytes(ACB) resulting from dividing a retrieval address by one byte each and a next node selection type(NSB), a next node selection circuit 30 that decides a node to be retrieved next on the basis of this NSB, and a path update circuit 31 that compares a valid address part denoting a division mask length(Db) in division addresses(Da) with a division mask length in address comparison bytes.



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